

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Community Care Licensing Division  
Northern California Children's Residential Licensing  
Regional Office and Out-of-State Certification Program  
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**OUT-OF-STATE ANNUAL REVIEW****GEORGE JR. REPUBLIC**

**FACILITY VISIT DATE(S):** June 7, 2005

**OUT-OF-STATE CERTIFICATION UNIT (OSCU) STAFF MEMBER:**

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**PURPOSE OF VISIT:**

George Jr. Republic (GJR) is seeking re-certification with the State of California, Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, Out-of-State Certification Unit. The purpose of this visit is to verify the facility is in compliance with California Group Home Licensing Standards in order to become re-certified.

**CALIFORNIA PLACING AGENCIES:**

Currently, San Francisco is the only California county making placements to these facilities.

**FACILITY AND PHYSICAL PLANT OVERVIEW:**

GJR is located at 233 George Jr. Road in Grove City, Pennsylvania. The college-like campus sits on 400 acre parcel within the city limits. The campus is fully equipped with on ground private school, medical infirmary, three gymnasiums, horse stables, ropes course, bowling alley, a student union building and 51 residential living cottages. The GJR organization has a total of 56 residential units which includes five off campus group homes.

The main campus buildings, grounds, furniture, equipment and supplies appeared to be plentiful and in good repair. The individual cottages, bedrooms, kitchen and bathrooms were found to be very clean and in order.

Both the main campus and off campus group home facilities provided adequate living space, game rooms and outside recreational activity space. The kitchen, bathrooms, bedrooms and exteriors were observed to be clean and in good repair.

#### FIRE CLEARANCE:

Fire clearances are conducted by the Grove City Pine Township Engine Company on an annual basis. The last fire inspection provided for this review was conducted on November 16, 2004 which included tours of several facilities, orientation for firefighters and a review of campus emergency procedures. No issues of concern were noted in this review.

#### PENNSYLVANIA LICENSING AND COMPLAINTS:

GJR is licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Welfare (DPW), Western Regional Office of Children Youth and Families. There are currently 56 residential houses and/or living units licensed under the DPW as Child Residential and Day Treatment Facilities. Each has its own individual license.

On June 7, 2005, contact was made with DPW licensing representative for GJR. The licensing representative reported that GJR is currently operating under full licensing status. There has been no pending legal action and they have not substantiated any complaints in the last year.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLEARANCES:

Since the GJR program consists of mostly residential homes and/or living units that employ live-in house parents, there is no need for a campus cafeteria. The parents with assistance from the residents prepare and cook their own meals. Since the students do not use a common cafeteria and/or restaurant, the facility is exempt from the Department of Health oversight and inspection. However, it is noted that under the DPW annual licensing and regulatory inspections; food service, preparation and sanitation areas are routinely reviewed.

#### ADMINISTRATION AND PLAN OF OPERATION:

GJR provided copies of valid licenses for their Child Residential and Day Treatment Facilities. Administrative review revealed no issues related to intake procedures, operating outside of licensing capacity, staff ratios, etc. The total census at the time of this visit was 545, three of which were California youths.

After further review, it was found that GJR is currently not reporting special incidents or submitting Special Incident Reports as required under California Incident Reporting Requirements. (See Emergency Intervention Plan and Incident Reports section of this report.)

#### PROGRAM REVIEW AND CHANGES, (If applicable):

Since the initial certification, GJR has not made any significant changes to their overall program statement and philosophy. GJR remains one of the largest Residential Treatment facilities in the United States.

The cornerstone of the residential program includes; The Open Residential Program which consist of multi single-family homes utilizes counselor "cottage parents" (live-in married couples) to implement the "Teacher Parent Model"

The County Based Group Homes; which emphasizes education, appropriate social behavior, avoidance of negative peer groups in the community and general development of skills they will need to become productive members of society.

Other components of the program include the following: The Delinquent Shelter Program which is a highly structured program with emphasis on special needs; 90 Day Intensive Treatment to provide short-term intensive intervention for first and second time offenders and The Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) which is a short-term, highly structured, intensive program with focus on behavioral problem youth.

#### EMERGENCY INTERVENTION PLAN (EIP) / INCIDENT REPORTS (IR):

GJR uses the "Safe Crisis Management" behavioral system.

- Issue(s) - Incident Reporting Requirements: GJR is currently in violation of California OSCU reporting requirements for failure to report special incidents. According to a review of the case file in California, GJR has not reported any special incidents or submitted Special Incident Reports to California in the past 2 years.

During the evaluation review, several documents were provided to address the facilities physical restraint tracking system. It appears that GJR keeps an on-going tracking data report on each child in placement who may be or may not be involved in a physical restraint. The data report provides the type of restraint, how many times it was applied, percentages of each technique by month and year, how many per unit, etc. The data report proved to be a good source of information to determine trends in physical intervention.

Per California Family Code Section 7911.1 (a), certified out-of-state group homes are required to comply with reporting requirements for each child in care regardless of whether he/she is a California placement. (This issue is addressed in the Plan of Correction.)

#### PERSONNEL AND CLIENT FILE REVIEW

Personnel file reviews revealed no issues of concern. The following issue was revealed during the client file reviews:

- Issue - Client files did not include signatures of approval from the authorized child representative(s) for consent to the GJR current drug testing, and search and seizure policy. Approval should be recognized by the signature of both student and authorized representative on the admissions agreement and/or needs and service plan. (This issue is addressed in the Plan of Correction.)

#### CLIENT(S) AND PERSONAL RIGHTS (REVIEWED):

Upon admission, each child is informed of his/her personal rights. The child rights statement document is signed by the child and his/her authorized representative and filed in the child's file.

Interviews with the California youth revealed no issues regarding personal rights. Students indicated that they were aware of their personal rights and had no problems in this area.

#### MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND NUTRITIONAL FOLLOW-UP SERVICES:

GJR has their own medical clinic on grounds. The clinic is fully equipped with an infirmary, examination and dental offices. Students have the convenience of seeing a physician on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. The dentist is available on Thursdays and Fridays. The clinic is also equipped to provide immunizations for the student upon admission, if needed.

Client's medication, physician and dental records appeared to be properly document in each student file. In case of a medical emergency, the child is taken to the hospital approximately five minutes away or an ambulance is called immediately.

Interviews with the California residents supported the findings that there are no issues in this area.

#### TREATMENT SERVICES (COUNSELING, GROUPS, THERAPY ETC):

GJR provides therapy in the areas of individual, group, and family counseling. Group sessions also address common topic issues and concerns specific to the residents and their living environment. Most students assigned to the residential cottage homes and group homes receive one individual and one group therapy session a week. It is a mandatory participation for all residents. However, youth assigned to the Special Needs Units receive two individual and two groups per week.

The California youths reported that they continue to receive their therapy sessions on a regular basis.

#### STAFF ORIENTATION AND TRAINING HOURS:

Review of staff's file revealed no issues regarding training hours. Documentation was found for all training hours.

Staff are required to complete 40 hours of annual training which includes behavior management, practices of child care, Safe Crisis Management, passive restraints techniques, emergency and safety procedures, first aid and CPR, etc.

### **SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION REVIEW:**

Certification review covered the following areas: programming, intake and discharge procedures, discipline policy, emergency intervention techniques, medical procedures, staff and client file review, facility file review, staff interviews, observation of program and daily activities, criminal record review, personal rights, food services, staff trainings, emergency disaster plan, fire clearance, and all issues pertaining to physical plant.

### **OUT-OF-STATE CERTIFICATION FINDINGS, VIOLATIONS AND PLAN OF CORRECTIONS:**

Licensee is required to prepare a Plan of Correction (POC) that will resolve the following issues:

1. Incident Reporting Requirements (IR): Include how the Agency plans to ensure that IR are submitted in a timely manner to the Out-of-State Placement and Policy Unit. (See IR guidelines attached to this report.)
2. Drug testing, search and seizure: Although GJR has a current policy to address drug testing and searches, child files did not contain authorization from California representatives approving this procedure. The issue of conducting drug test or searches on California youth must be approved through signatures of both the child and his authorized representatives through the admissions agreement and/or needs and service or treatment plans.

Advisory note: The right to possess his or her own clothes is considered a personal right of California youth. As it was discovered in the initial certification evaluation, shoes may be locked-up for youth who have demonstrated runaway risk, delinquent and/or destructive behaviors that may pose risk to self and others when in possession of shoes and boots. The "shoe removal" policy is only specific to the "Special Needs Program". All students assigned to this specialized unit are supplied with house slippers in lieu of shoes while on the living unit.

Any exceptions must be addressed in student needs and assessment plan or treatment plan. The plan should include why removal of shoes poses risk to the youth and is necessary to ensure his health and safety. Such plan should also be signed both by the child and authorized representative.

### **CERTIFICATION DECISION:**

The Re-Certification will be decided following review of the POC. Please submit a POC for the above issues by **July 14, 2005**.

